

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 40, 41, 48 and 29 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, amend Claims 34 to 39 and 42 to 47, and add new Claims 50 and 51 as shown below. The claims, as pending in the subject application, now read as follows:

1. to 33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus capable of detachably mounting thereon a recording medium on which image data are recorded so that an external printer can read out the recorded image data, said image processing apparatus comprising:

read-out control means for reading-out a print setting item information file in which print setting item information indicating an item settable by the external printer is described, from said recording medium on which the print setting item information of each of a plurality of external printers is recorded by the external printer;

generating means for generating print setting information for printing, by the external printer, the image data recorded on said recording medium; [[and]]

analyzing means for reading-out ~~causing the external printer to read out,~~ from said recording medium, print setting items information indicative of items settable by the external printer and analyzing the ~~read-out~~ print setting item information file, when said image processing apparatus sets up a print setting in advance; and generating means generates the print setting information

selecting means for selecting a printer from among the plurality of external printers,

wherein the print setting information includes information for specifying the external printer, and

wherein said generating means generates the print setting information on the basis of the print setting item information corresponding to the printer selected analyzed by said selection analyzing means; and

wherein on said recording medium, the print setting item information indicative of the item settable by the external printer is recorded with respect to a plurality of the external printers.

35. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 34, wherein said generating means generates an automatic print information file describing print image designation information and the print setting information, in order to cause the external printer to automatically print the image data.

36. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein said recording medium includes a directory for managing the automatic print information file.

37. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 34, wherein said recording medium includes a directory for managing the print setting information file independently of the image data.

38. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 35, wherein the automatic print information file is a DPOF file.

39. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 34, wherein the print setting information file includes at least one of print type setting information, image processing setting information, two-side print setting information and staple setting information.

40. and 41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently amended) A control method for an image processing apparatus capable of detachably mounting thereon a recording medium on which image data are recorded so that an external printer can read out the recorded image data, said control method comprising:

a read-out control step of reading-out a print setting item information file in which print setting item information indicating an item settable by the external printer is described, from said recording medium, on which the print setting item information of each of a plurality of external printers is recorded by the external printer;

a generating step of generating print setting information for printing, by the external printer, the image data recorded on said recording medium; [[and]]

an analyzing step of reading-out causing the external printer to read-out, from said recording medium, print setting items information indicative of items settable by the external printer and analyzing the read-out print setting item information file, when

said image processing apparatus sets up a print setting in advance; and generating step  
generates the print setting information

a selecting step of selecting a printer from among the plurality of external  
printers,

wherein said generating step generates the print setting information on the  
basis of the print setting item information corresponding to the printer selected analyzed in  
said selecting analyzing step; and

wherein on said recording medium, the print setting item information  
indicative of the item settable by the external printer is recorded with respect to a plurality  
of the external printers.

43. (Currently amended) A control method according to Claim 42, wherein  
said generating step includes a step of generating an automatic print information file  
describing print image designation information and the print setting information, in order  
to cause the external printer to automatically print the image data.

44. (Currently amended) A control method according to Claim 43, wherein  
said recording medium includes a directory for managing the automatic print information  
file.

45. (Currently amended) A control method according to Claim 42, wherein  
said recording medium includes a directory for managing the print setting information file  
independently of the image data.

46. (Currently amended) A control method according to Claim 43, wherein the automatic print information file is a DPOF file.

47. (Currently amended) A control method according to Claim 42, wherein the print setting information file includes at least one of print type setting information, image processing setting information, two-side print setting information and staple setting information.

48. and 49. (Canceled)

50. (New) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the print setting item information is recorded on said recording medium as the print setting information file on each external printer basis.

51. (New) An image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the information for specifying the external printer is type information thereof and is described in a header portion of the print setting information file.